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Speech of Mr. Mario Solorza, Guatemala.

March 20, 1981.

My dear brothers,

First I would like to greet the Conference and apologize for having coming late to the start, but it was for reasons beyond my control.

I believe that after hearing the speech of Brother Borja, there is very little for me to say. All I would like to do is to situate the problem in practice and within a society Rodrigo said it was a backward race to the 18th century. I agree with him. In the fact that there is a backward movement in the forms of Government, but this takes advantage of the advance of science to repress.

The case of Central America and Guatemala in particular, is that of the use of the infringement of human rights as a means of exercising power. It is the absolute change of the concept of what should be a bourgeoisie democracy in the terms of a lack of search for the consensus and the application of repression as a political method to keep privileges of the minority groups.

The infringement of human rights is furthermore, a socialist struggle to eradicate a system of oppression. Rodrigo Borja mentioned it. The dimension of our struggle to prevent this infringement is the dimension from the working classes from the very beginning. It is a dimension that is different with a high political content. We cannot achieve any transformation of a social economic nature if we do not have the possibility of taking over the political power in our countries. And we cannot wait for those who have governed us for years, are going to perform the transformations. The only means we have of creating a free, just and democratic situation in the full sense of the word, is through clear concise recognition of the working classes in our countries.

The case of Guatemala is a very special case. It is a case that is different to Nicaragua and El Salvador, even though we are closely, historically and culturally related to them in regard to the economic dominion, but the Guatemalan oppression has become absolutely incredible.

The last report of Amnesty International, and I quote since it is the prestige of amnesty, that there is a whole program of the Government totally to eliminate any type of opposition in Guatemala. And it is not just the opposition of the political parties. Enemies of the state are any child of 14 years who organizes in the high schools to struggle for educational rights. And we have a long list of young people that have been murdered, very very young people in fact that have been murdered. The system considers enemies and repress christian priests that adopt the true path of the word of God.

The trade union leaders of course are murdered if they struggle to organize a people for economic victories and better living conditions. University professors are also murdered, simply because they wish to teach the truth to their people. And of course

political leaders are murdered as well.

But Guatemala is not just that. Guatemala is also a struggle, a people on its feet, a people that has not been defeated, and day by day it progresses more and more.

I am not bringing you a message of sadness, I am bringing you a message of hope, because the truth is that the revolution in Central America has come to its feet, even to the suffering of Mr. Reagan with all he represents. And we are upright and not because somebody has whispered at me, I must do this just because they wish to sell as United States, trying to bring to Central America the small people of Central American in West-East conflict, which is not real in our opinion. We are on our feet, because we have been indiscriminately exploited for more than 30 years in the case of Guatemala, from 1954 when there would be help of the United States, the group prevented the development of a democratic revolution. From that time on we are trying to introduce a policy of our own to give it the true dimension that it must have, so that it can become a true weapon for the struggles, the struggle for the human rights is a struggle for socialism. Personally I am convinced that only in a socialist society will we be able to cover the field of human rights fully. We have no alternatives. The problem, brothers, is for us to believe in the possibility of building this socialism, without having to import schemes that have nothing to do with our realities.

I would only like to state the following. In Guatemala we have a military regime that uses repression as a constant, as a political method. It is mostly based on and lies among the powerful groups of Guatemala, in the interest of the United States, and it exercises powers through an extreme anti-communist and anti-socialist ideology and whoever opposes to this regime is considered a communist and becomes a candidate for murder.

The struggle for the validity of human rights is a struggle of the International Socialist. It is a struggle that if we do not initiate it with great strength, it is possible with the intentions of the North, they will carry us backwards in all those countries where we have progressed.

I think that this Conference allows the brothers of the Caribbean to relate more closely to Central America. Central America is also a Caribbean region and I believe that the solution, the real solutions for our situations, cannot be a specific or individual solution. We shall have to solve it in an old manner our problems, and we shall have to deepen the validity of human rights, there were advancements have been made, in other cases initiate the struggles, so that we can achieve this.

In order to close my remarks I would like to tell you that the Guatemalan opposition, not only the democratic socialist party, but the Frente Democratico contra la Represion, which is the unitary group of the Guatemalan struggle, wants to bring our message of hope and want to tell you within this Latin American

and Caribbean Conference, that we believe in the self-determination of all the peoples and this includes also your brothers from Belize.

Thank you.

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